

THE GOSPEL IN GALATIANS

THE REDEEMED IN CHRIST

A GIFT LIFE EXPERIENCE

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FORMED FAITH FREEDOM

Galatians 3

Galatians 3

¹ You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! ² The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? ⁴ Did you experience so much for nothing?—if it really was for nothing. ⁵ Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? ⁶ Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,” ⁷ so, you see,

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those who believe are the descendants of Abraham.⁸ And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you."⁹ For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed.

¹⁰ For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith."¹² But the law does not rest on faith; on the

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contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them."¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"—¹⁴ in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, I give an example from daily life: once a person's will has been ratified, no one adds to it or annuls it.¹⁶ Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring; it does not say, "And to offsprings," as of many; but it says, "And to your offspring," that is, to one

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person, who is Christ.¹⁷ My point is this: the law, which came four hundred thirty years later, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.¹⁸ For if the inheritance comes from the law, it no longer comes from the promise; but God granted it to Abraham through the promise.

¹⁹ Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring would come to whom the promise had been made; and it was ordained through angels by a mediator.²⁰ Now a mediator involves more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law then opposed to the promises of

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God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could make alive, then righteousness would indeed come through the law. ²² But the scripture has imprisoned all things under the power of sin, so that what was promised through faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized

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into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

"There are moments when a single truth cries out for proclamation. . . . For me one of these moments came in the early 1980s. . . . When I looked at the people I was living with as a pastor, I realized how unfree they were.

They were over come with anxieties in the face of rising inflation. They were pessimistic about the prospects for justice and peace in a world bristling with sophisticated weapons systems and nuclear devices. They were living huddled, worried, defensive lives. I wanted to shout in objection: Don't live that way! You are Christians! Our lives can be a growth into freedom instead of a withdrawal into anxious wariness.

I became determined to seek ways in which I could awaken a hunger and thirst for the free life among people who had lost an appetite for it, and then, having awakened the appetite, to find the food and drink that would satisfy it.

So I set myself deliberately between Paul's words in Galatians and the words of the people I lived with in church and in the world. . . . I attempted to keep both elements in tension in my imagination and in my ministry—the element of Galatians, churning and surging with the energy of freedom, and the element of people who have given up on freedom and who live apathetically or fatalistically.

Freedom is not an abstraction, and it is not a thing. It is a gift and a skill. Maybe living out this Christ-freedom is a gift we can offer the world as it passes its millennial milestone."

-Eugene Peterson, *Traveling Light*

Galatians 3:1-4 (*The Message*)

You crazy Galatians! Did someone put a hex on you? Have you taken leave of your senses? Something crazy has happened, for it's obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus in your lives. His sacrifice on the cross was certainly set before you clearly enough.

Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God's Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was

Galatians 3:1-4 (*The Message*)

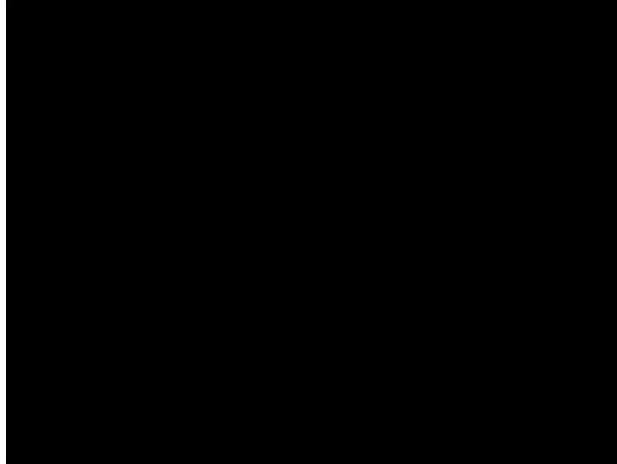
begun by God. If you weren't smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it? Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up!

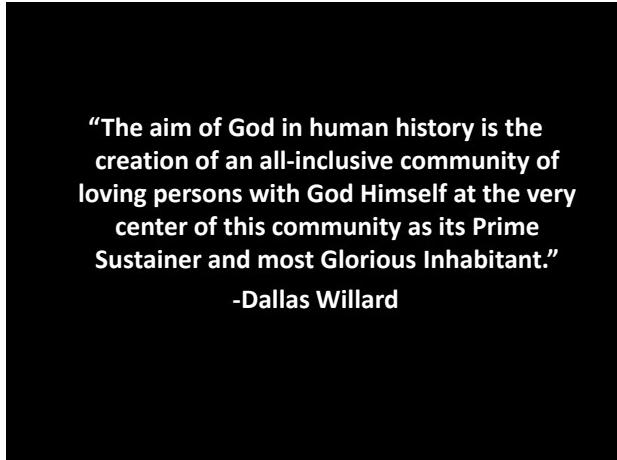
"God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

-2 Corinthians 5:21

Grace is opposed to earning, but not to effort.

-Dallas Willard





"The aim of God in human history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons with God Himself at the very center of this community as its Prime Sustainer and most Glorious Inhabitant."

-Dallas Willard
